

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-188-C - ORDER NO. 2005-362
JULY 11, 2005

IN RE: Petition of MCImetro Access Transmission)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
Services, LLC for Arbitration of Certain)	ARBITRATION PLAN
Terms and Conditions of Proposed)	AND SCHEDULE
Agreement with Horry Telephone)	
Cooperative, Inc. concerning Interconnection)	
Agreement and Resale Under the)	
Telecommunications Act of 1996.)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") on the Petition for Arbitration filed by MCImetro Access Transmission Services, LLC ("MCI") on June 20, 2005, involving an interconnection agreement with Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Horry" or "ILEC"). The Petition was filed pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("Act"). By its Petition, the MCI requests the Commission to arbitrate certain terms and conditions of proposed agreements between MCI and Horry. Additionally, MCI requests the Commission to arbitrate the unresolved issues between MCI and Horry within the timetable specified by the Act. Under Act No. 175, the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") is a party in arbitration cases.

Section 252 (b)(4)(C) of the Act requires that a state commission hear and rule on a petition for arbitration, such as the above-captioned docket as currently postured, no later than 9 months after the date on which the local exchange carrier received the request

for negotiation. In its Petition, MCI asserts that commencement of negotiations in the present proceeding was commenced on or about January 10, 2005. We must therefore hear and rule on this matter on or before October 10, 2005. Accordingly, we will rule on various procedural matters connected with this case in this Order and establish an Arbitration Plan.

The Arbitration Hearing in this Docket shall begin at **10:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 11, 2005**, in the Commission Hearing Room.

The Commission hereby orders that twenty-five (25) copies of the direct testimony and exhibits of MCI shall be prefiled on or before **July 14, 2005**. Twenty-five (25) copies of the direct testimony and exhibits of Horry and the direct testimony and exhibits of the ORS shall be prefiled on or before **July 28, 2005**. Further, twenty-five (25) copies of the rebuttal testimony and exhibits of MCI shall be prefiled on or before **August 4, 2005**, and twenty-five copies of the surrebuttal testimony and exhibits of Horry and the ORS shall be prefiled on or before **August 9, 2005**.

The Parties shall file prehearing briefs and/or proposed orders with the Commission on or before **August 9, 2005**. Additionally, the parties shall file a list of issues with the Commission on or before **August 9, 2005**.

The parties shall serve the other parties with copies of all prefiled testimony and exhibits as well as with copies of the prehearing briefs. **Service on the parties and the Commission of the prefiled testimony and exhibits and the prehearing briefs shall be made by the close of business on the dates herein specified with such prefiled testimony and exhibits and prehearing briefs being delivered to the Commission and**

the opposing party by the close of business on the dates herein specified. If actual, physical service cannot be accomplished on the dates indicated herein, service may be accomplished by facsimile transmission or e-mail transmission of the prefiled testimony and exhibits and prehearing briefs by the close of business on the dates specified, with over-night delivery to follow.

All parties are reminded that all witnesses must be present during the hearing in this matter at the call of the Chairman, or the Commission may decline to allow the witnesses' testimony to be read into the record of the proceeding and/or may decline to allow the witnesses' exhibits to be entered into the evidence of the case.

Opening statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the beginning of the hearing. Closing statements of the parties and any participants will be allowed at the conclusion of the hearing.

Direct testimony and exhibits, as well as rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony and exhibits, of the parties' witnesses shall be presented to the Arbitrator in a panel format, with all witnesses being sworn in concurrently. Examination of witnesses will proceed issue by issue, with all witnesses on an issue being examined by all parties before proceeding to the next issue. Examination of the witnesses shall be conducted by attorneys for the Parties. The examination may be directed to specific witnesses or to the entire panel of witnesses. Responses by other witnesses, other than the witness or witnesses to whom the question is directed, may be allowed at the discretion of the Chairman.

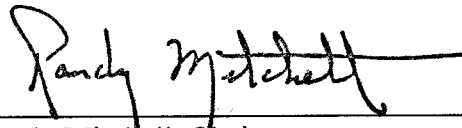
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Please note that any party requesting modification of this schedule must file a request for such modification with the Commission.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)